

This newsletter provides quick updates on issues of interest to members and affiliates of the Council of Ontario Universities (COU). This issue covers fall and winter 2009.

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2009 David C. Smith Award winner galvanizes universities to produce global citizens

The foundations of a tolerant, respectful civil society have been severely shaken and universities need to rise to the occasion and assume their role in educating global citizens who will ensure its survival, according to Dr. Martha C. Piper, winner of the 2009 David C. Smith Award, which recognized her lifelong commitment to enhancing higher education and research in Canada.

At the October 15th dinner reception hosted by COU, Dr. Piper urged her audience of university and government representatives to think differently about the academic mission of universities to ensure that the messages of citizenship and global responsibility are embedded in every area and not delegated to one department. For example, the study of the mutational capacity of malaria is not just an issue of bacteriology but a living demonstration in the Petri dish of what happens to the unnamed child dying from lack of safe water in Guatemala. Similarly, she explained, "Anyone who has read the bestseller *Reading Lolita in Tehran* can begin to imagine how even with the teaching of *Pride and Prejudice* or the novels of Henry James one can stimulate students to think globally."

"By creating tolerant environments, by teaching students to be open to others, by celebrating diversity, by respecting the freedom of the mind in the classroom and in the residence hall – we will produce a generation of scholars who are prepared for peace," said the University of British Columbia's Past President, whose vision of preparing the future global citizens drove UBC's mission from 1997 to 2006.

But universities are not the only institutions that need to assume responsibility in building better global citizens. In her remarks, Dr. Piper called on the federal government to recognize its role in funding postsecondary education that would address the need to develop curriculum that will result in globally literate students from coast to coast. She also called for increased funding for research in the human sciences to deal with a number of areas, including social welfare, corrections, national defense, foreign aid, heritage and culture.

No stranger to the role of research, Dr. Piper has championed increased funding for research, and her efforts to mobilize academic leaders nation-wide was instrumental in securing heightened investment in the federal research granting councils, the Canada Foundation for Innovation and the Canada Research Chairs program.

Dr. Piper, who holds 15 honorary degrees, is a member of the Order of Canada and the Order of British Columbia, and an Honorary Fellow of Oxford University's Merton College. In winning the David C. Smith Award, which is named after the late Emeritus Principal and professor of Queen's University, Dr. Piper joins a distinguished group of winners including the Right-Honourable Jean Chrétien and the Honourable Bob Rae.

Record numbers attend 2009 Ontario Universities' Fair

Over 116,000 senior secondary school students and their teachers, family and friends attended the 12th annual Ontario Universities' Fair (OUF) at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre.

The free-admission event, held from September 25 to 27, is a forum for all of Ontario's universities to answer questions about admission policies, academic programs and campus life to help students and their parents make informed educational decisions.

The largest fair of its kind in Canada, OUF is the Toronto leg of the province-wide University Information Program, which is organized by the Standing Committee on Secondary School Liaison.

The 2010 fair is scheduled for September 24 to 26 at the same location.

Ontario universities commit to going "greener," present pledge to government

Executive Heads of Ontario universities underscored their commitment to environmental sustainability by presenting their pledge *Ontario Universities: Committed to a Greener World* to Hon. John Milloy, Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities, and to Dr. Helena Jaczek, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Environment, at a luncheon reception at Queen's Park in 2009.

"Ontario universities are deeply aware of the challenges that face the world arising from climate change and the degradation of natural environments, and we accept the responsibility of helping to find solutions, share knowledge and incorporate principles of sustainability into our operations," said Sheldon Levy, Chair of Council and President of Ryerson University.

The presentation of the pledge was made in concert with the release of the report *Ontario Universities: Going Greener* that documents the many environmental and sustainability activities already underway at 20 Ontario universities (across 22 campuses). These initiatives cover nine key areas: policy and administration; integrating sustainability concepts into curriculum and research; buildings and green space; recycling and waste management; energy management; water management; transportation and fleet; purchasing and procurement; and partnerships and other initiatives. The report – in summary and full – is now posted on COU's website (www.cou.on.ca).

One of COU's major affiliates, the Council of Senior Administrative Officers (CSAO), spearheaded the creation of the pledge and the survey that captured Ontario universities' wide-ranging green initiatives.

The luncheon presentation was the centerpiece of University Day at Queen's Park, a day-long series of meetings held on November 26 that brought Executive Heads and university administrators together with senior government staff to discuss shared goals and concerns. The day concluded with a farewell reception to former COU President Paul C. Genest, who now serves as Deputy Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and Associate Secretary of the Cabinet, and Deputy Minister of Francophone Affairs.

Patrick Deane named next President of McMaster

Distinguished academic and university administrator Patrick Deane has been named incoming President of McMaster University and will take office on July 1, 2010. He currently serves as Vice-Principal (Academic) at Queen's University.

"McMaster is one of the country's most dynamic universities with an enviable record of innovation and integration of research and teaching," said Dr. Deane upon his selection. "I look forward to joining the McMaster family, to meeting people at the university, our alumni, supporters, and members of the Hamilton community. I know we will find ways to work together to further strengthen the university's programs, opportunities and reputation."

While working at the University of Winnipeg, Dr. Deane simultaneously held the positions of Vice-President (Academic) and acting President for a year and a half, during which time he eliminated the university's deficit while avoiding any cuts to services. He also spearheaded a revamping of the school's fundraising program.

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Dr. Deane, who earned his MA and PhD at the University of Western Ontario, began his academic career at the University of Toronto but returned to Western to join its Department of English in 1988, the same year that he was awarded the prestigious John Charles Polanyi Prize for Literature.

He will succeed Dr. Peter George, whose 15th year as president of McMaster concludes on June 30, 2010. Prior to assuming the university's presidency in 1995, Dr. George had served as President of the Council of Ontario Universities. He also served as Chair of Council from 2007 to 2009, and currently is its Past Chair/Vice-Chair.

Update at the COU Secretariat

Former COU President Bonnie Patterson appointed to lead COU

Prof. Bonnie M. Patterson has been appointed President and CEO of COU for a three-year term to September 2012. Prof. Patterson brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to this position, having served as President of COU from 1995 to 1998. In her more recent role as President and Vice-Chancellor of Trent University, from 1998 to June 2009, she contributed tirelessly to dialogue on the university sector at both COU and the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC), and served as chair of AUCC from 2005 to 2007. She also served as Dean of Business at Ryerson University.

Her ability to help find common ground and develop consensus positions on critical issues characterized her membership – one of four Canadian university presidents – on the Council of the Association of Commonwealth Universities. Her strong leadership and consensus-building skills will be crucial to COU as Ontario universities embark upon the new multi-year plan for postsecondary education in the province. In 2006, the Women's Executive Network named Prof. Patterson as one of the Top 100 Most Powerful Women in Canada. Prof. Patterson holds a BA and MLS from the University of Western Ontario.

New head of Quality Assurance helping to move new system forward

Helping to move the new quality assurance framework closer to the approval stage has been the major focus this fall for Dr. Donna Woolcott, COU's new Executive Director of Quality Assurance, who left Halifax's Mount Saint Vincent University to guide the establishment and oversight of Ontario's new system.

Working closely with the Quality Assurance Task Force and most recently with the OCAV (Ontario Council of Academic Vice-Presidents) Executive, Dr. Woolcott expects the new framework will be approved by OCAV in February along with a revised timeline for implementation of the new framework. Dr. Woolcott is also collaborating with the OCAV Executive on the membership and operation of the Quality Council, with whom she will liaise to ensure the preservation of quality in university programs. Until the new process is in place in 2011, the Ontario Council on Graduate Studies will continue to review new graduate program proposals.

Dr. Woolcott brings a wealth of experience to her new post. At the University of Guelph, she held a number of progressively responsible positions over 20 years, culminating in her role as Assistant Vice-President (Academic). She was also appointed to the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission, which has responsibility for approving new programs and monitoring quality assurance at the universities in Canada's three Maritime provinces. Dr. Woolcott holds a BHSc and PhD from the University of Guelph and an MSC from the University of Manitoba.